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**Subject: Flint Readout 05/12/16**

## **Expanded Medicaid**

[Expanded Medicaid for Flint water crisis not limited to residents](#)

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 05/12/16 4:00 PM [video clip]

Gov. Rick Snyder along with officials from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced this week that people ages 21 and under and pregnant women who have been exposed to Flint water may be eligible for a Medicaid expansion program. "I know that people are also wanting to in addition to safe water they want to make sure they have the best there can be in services," said Kathleen Falk, regional director of Region V for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in a Thursday, May 12 press conference. "While not all children will be affected and those affected will not be affected in the same way, we want to make sure we give every possible resource to children so they can have the best start and the best life."

[Summer nutritional program expands for Flint kids](#)

Detroit News 05/11/16 7:22 PM

The federal government said Wednesday it was expanding a summertime nutritional program to more Flint children. Following an announcement last month of a grant increasing access to healthy foods benefits in the summer to some 16,000 kids around the country the program adds 23,000 children who may have been affected by the contamination of Flint's water system. The Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children demonstration project found "a significant reduction in food insecurity among participating families," according to the United States Department of Agriculture, which administers the program.

#### Michigan to Pay Flint's May Water Bills to Promote Flushing

By David Eggert & Mike Householder AP for ABC News 05/12/16

3:28 PM

The state of Michigan will pay all Flint water bills in May to encourage the flushing of lead from old pipes and the recoating of plumbing with a corrosion chemical. Gov. Rick Snyder made the announcement Thursday at a news conference with Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, who unveiled an advertising campaign urging residents to run cold water for 10 minutes a day for two weeks. "Essentially, May will be a free water month," Snyder said. "With respect to the water portion of the water and sewer bill, there won't be a charge."

#### Flint mayor, governor push plan to flush pipes

By Matthew Dolan, Detroit Free Press 05/12/16 1:10 PM

In an effort to flush out lead particles in Flint's water system that continue to spike the supply to unsafe levels, Gov. Rick Snyder and Flint Mayor Karen Weaver on Thursday launched a new campaign designed to persuade residents to run their taps for 10 minutes a day for two weeks. The month-long campaign started May 1, but participation has been lower than expected at the start, officials said. Residents had been asked to turn a bathroom tub faucet and a kitchen faucet full-on for five minutes a day. That overall 10-minute routine needs to be repeated every day for 14 days. Businesses are also asked to participate.

#### State to cover Flint water bills in May for flushing

By Jacob Carah, Detroit News 05/12/16 10:35 AM

Residents will not be charged for their water usage in May as part of an aggressive effort to

encourage them to move more water through the system as part of a city-wide flushing effort. Federal, state and local officials announced Thursday an effort to help flush the system of loose lead particles. Residents are being encouraged to run cold water in the bathtubs and kitchens for five minutes every day for 14 days this month.

## **Investigation of Michigan Health Department**

Auditors: 2 more months needed on health agency probe

By Chad Livengood, Detroit News 05/11/16 8:52 PM

State auditors told Gov. Rick Snyder on Wednesday they need about two more months to complete an investigation of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' role in Flint's water crisis. State Auditor General Doug Ringler and DHHS Inspector General Alan Kimichik sent Snyder a letter Wednesday saying they could not complete the investigation the governor asked for by Monday. "Due to the magnitude of this investigation, a final report will not be available by May 16," Ringler and Kimichik said in the letter to Snyder. "Also, in order to maintain the integrity of the ongoing investigation, we are unable to release any preliminary findings at this time."

Investigation into Michigan health department's role in Flint water crisis extended

By Ron Fonger, MLIVE 05/11/16 6:25 PM

It will take several more weeks before an investigation into the actions of the state Department of Health and Human Services in the Flint water crisis is completed. It will take several more weeks before an investigation into the actions of the state Department of Health and Human Services in the Flint water crisis is completed. **"Due to the magnitude of this investigation, a final report will not be available by May 16.** Also, in order to maintain the integrity of the ongoing investigation, we are unable to release any preliminary findings at this time," the letter says.

## **KWA Pipeline Funding**

Ex-DEQ staffer denies 'sweetheart' Flint deal

By Chad Livengood, Detroit News 05/12/16 4:32 PM

A former state water regulator is recanting her characterization that Flint got a "sweetheart" deal that paved the way for construction of a new water pipeline and the city's temporary

use of the Flint River for drinking water. Nicole Zacharda, a former enforcement specialist in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Water Resources Division, said Thursday an email she sent Dec. 19, 2013, is being taken out of context of the agency's internal bureaucratic "lingo." Zacharda's email to fellow DEQ water regulators said an attorney for the Karegnondi Water Authority was "seeking what I'd characterize as a 'sweetheart'" administrative consent order or permit to help ease Flint's "ability to access bond funding" for the new Lake Huron water pipeline project.

#### 'Sweetheart' bond deal aided Flint water split from Detroit

By Paul Egan, Detroit Free Press 05/12/16 6:57 AM

The City of Flint's financial condition was so dire in 2014 that it threatened the ability of the Karegnondi Water Authority to issue bonds and start construction on a new pipeline to Lake Huron. But the project was rescued through what was described as a "sweetheart" state environmental order pushed by KWA bond attorneys, records show. Although Flint is responsible for about 35% of the debt related to the \$285-million KWA project, a deal struck between the Department of Environmental Quality and the city, which at the time was under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager, meant that none of that cost counted against the city's already squeezed debt limit, according to interviews and e-mails recently released by Gov. Rick Snyder.

## **Other News**

#### Cause of death released for Flint water foreman, investigation continues

By Amanda Emery, MLIVE 05/12/16 5:09 PM

The cause of death for a Flint water treatment plant foreman was caused by drug intoxication coupled with a health condition, but the manner of death is indeterminate as police continue to investigate. The Lapeer County Office of the Medical Examiner has determined that Matthew Troy McFarland, 43 of Otter Lake, died on April 16 from drug intoxication with high levels of mixed controlled substances with a contribution from him having an underlying hypertension-related heart disease. The manner of his death is filed as indeterminate, according to a news release from the Lapeer County Sheriff's Office.

#### Volunteer Vets Test Pups For Lead Poisoning In Flint

By Elyse Wanshel, Huffington Post 05/12/16 3:39 PM

Humans in Flint, Michigan, are not the only ones who have had it rough. Dogs in Flint were also exposed to significant levels of lead during the city's infamous water crisis. But many of Flint's pups can now pant easy thanks to a team of volunteer veterinarians, technicians and students from Michigan State University who have volunteered their time to screen dogs for traces of lead. And the results will make your tail wag as well. The Associated Press reports that out of the 266 dogs that have been tested so far, there have only been seven documented cases of lead toxicity.

#### What It's Like to Live Through Flint's Water Crisis When You Don't Speak English

By Natalie Zarowny, VICE 05/12/16

In a neatly decorated home on Flint's east side, Arendira Solis sat at a large kitchen table across from her son. The 50-year-old was explaining what many people living in the city can recall perfectly: the moment she found out there was lead in the water. "In the morning, I watch television news in English," she told me in Spanish. "I don't understand exactly everything, but I do remember hearing that there was something happening with the water." Because of her limited understanding, Solis started doing what seemed logical to her—boiling the water.

#### Michigan to Host Book Drive for Children in Flint

By MGoBlue 05/12/16

In an effort to positively impact children and youth in the Flint and the Michigan area that has been affected by the Flint water crisis, the University of Michigan Athletic Department and the Michigan baseball team will be hosting a book drive on Tuesday (May 17) at the Wilpon Complex, home of Ray Fisher Stadium. All book proceeds will go directly to the Boys and Girls Club of Flint. Thanks to a large outpouring of support from local and national partners, the Flint area has a surplus of clean water but now the community must battle the lasting effects that lead poisoning can have on developing children. Recently, the Community Foundation of Greater Flint implemented an initiative called the Flint Child Health and Development Fund in response to the water crisis. The fund addresses numerous priorities for children's needs in Flint, including a heavy focus on early childhood education.

#### Fear of violence led to weight gain in young black women, Flint-based study shows

By Martin Slagter, MLIVE 05/12/16 1:09 PM

Young African-American women who live in fear of the violence in their neighborhoods are more likely to become obese when they reach their 20s and 30s, new research from the University of Michigan shows. The community-based study in Flint, reveals that African-American girls who express fear about their violent surroundings at age 15 experienced a larger increase in body mass index from ages 21 to 32, the U-M School of Public Health researchers found, according to a Michigan News release.

#### Simulated plane crash brings victims, first responders to Flint airport

By Gary Ridley, MLIVE 05/12/16 12:04 PM

A teenage girl walked the tarmac of Bishop Airport holding her bloody, severed hand following a report of a plane crash. Luckily for the dozens of first responders on scene – and the girl – the event was part of a tri-annual live disaster drill at the airport. "We hope that we never have to use the skills that we will be honing in this exercise," said Airport Director Craig William. "But, if we do, we will be prepared for it."

### **Claims Against Mayor Weaver**

#### Mayor Weaver says allegations of diverting water crisis funds are 'false'

By Jiquanda Johnson, MLIVE 05/12/16 4:50 PM [video clip]

Mayor Karen Weaver responded to recent allegations that she had staff direct Flint water crisis donations to her personal account. A lawsuit filed by former city administrator Natasha Henderson claims she was fired after reporting that Weaver was diverting the funds. Weaver in a Thursday morning press conference said the allegations are "false." Check out what she had to say in the above video.

#### Flint mayor: Allegations by ex-official 'outrageously false'

By AP for Detroit Free Press 05/11/16 8:26 PM

The mayor of Flint is breaking her silence and denying allegations that she was using the city's water crisis to get cash for a political fund. Former city administrator Natasha Henderson filed a lawsuit Monday, claiming she was dismissed for being a whistleblower. She says she was fired after reporting that Mayor Karen Weaver was trying to steer donations to a campaign fund instead of a charity for families with lead-tainted water.

## Opinions

### Kildee urges action on federal funding plan for Flint

By Jonathan Oosting, Detroit News 05/12/16 4:11 PM

U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee is urging a vote on his bill to authorize up to \$765 million in federal aid to address the Flint water crisis, announcing Thursday that more than 150 Democrats have signed on as co-sponsors. The so-called Families of Flint Act, introduced in February, does not have any Republican co-sponsors and continues to face an uncertain future in the GOP-led Congress, which has not yet approved a series of Flint funding proposals.

### Flint and the Taxpayers Should Be Concerned

Letters to the Editor, Wall Street Journal 05/12/16 1:39 PM

Three letters to the editor concerning articles: “Obama’s Got Flint’s Back”, “Getting Our Environmental Regulation Right”, and a general comment.

### What Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder Could Learn from Obama on Flint

By Susan Demas, Huffington Post 05/12/16 1:09 PM

Gov. Snyder has lost the people of Flint, and there’s no getting them back. He’s pointedly avoided public events in the city since acknowledging the water crisis roughly eight months ago, choosing instead to hold tightly controlled news conferences. If Snyder was hoping Flint residents’ anger would dissipate with time, he was proved dead wrong last week during President Obama’s visit. The governor did what he should have done back in September 2015. He apologized to the people of Flint — in Flint.

### Howes: Foundations open cash spigots for Flint

By Daniel Howes, Detroit News 05/12/16 9:35 AM

While the politicians stall, Flint is getting its own Grand Bargain. Not to offset losses in pensions or to secure city-owned art, but to organize, finance and answer social service needs exacerbated by a lead-tainted water crisis now more than two years old. The Flint-based Charles Stewart Mott Foundation’s move to commit a whopping \$100 million to a \$125 million fund — more than the \$71.7 million the state of Michigan has so far delivered

to Flint — establishes a “bridge” for other would-be funders to join the 10-foundation effort announced Wednesday.

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